UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
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NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUN 1 3 2014

Darryl Smalls
Commissioner
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Public Works
8244 Sub Base, St. Thomas
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-5805

Dear Mr. Smalls:

This is in response to your request for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for your proposed pump station rehabilitation projects in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The pump stations to be upgraded are Port Terminal, Pearl B. Larsen, Old Barrack Yard, Humbug I, Humbug II, Ricardo Richard, and Bay Road. These projects are being funded through a federal construction grant.

These seven small pump stations scattered throughout St. Croix constantly require repair and maintenance in order to continue critical wastewater pumping operations. The pump stations remove sewage from different communities and convey wastewater to the LBJ, Fig Tree, and Lagoon Street pump stations, which eventually send wastewater flows to the Anguilla Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment. Structures, as well as, electrical and mechanical equipment at these pump stations require frequently recurring repairs and maintenance due to age and normal operational deterioration. Additionally, staff have been manually removing and reinstalling the heavy pumps without mechanical assistance, such as an overhead crane system, which is a difficult and dangerous task with a higher risk for injuries. A federal court order under the Clean Water Act requires the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority (VIWMA) to immediately improve the structural integrity and functionality of these pump stations, which will increase their reliability and public safety. Based on VIWMA's success with the completed upgrades at the Mon Bijou and Concordia Pump Stations during December 2013, similar rehabilitation work will be performed for the seven pump stations. Detailed work to be performed at each pump station includes the following (in addition to Table 1):

- Power wash and paint the exterior of generator building,
- Power wash and paint the interior/exterior of the concrete fuel tank secondary storage containment structure,
- Clean and plaster the above grade portion of wet well exterior walls,
- Clean and paint entire wet well exterior walls,
- Remove exterior wooden steps and construct new concrete steps for combined pump station and generator building,
- Install two submersible pumps, aluminum access door cover, new control panel, and wet well bypass/pump around valve,
- Install an overhead crane system for removal and installation of pumps into/from wet well, and
- Perform general cleaning and painting where required.

Table 1. Additional Pump Station Work

Pump Station Name	Location	Additional Upgrade
Ricardo Richards	Bethlehem Frgate Bird Road (Elementary School)	Install new flood prevention gates at building entrance/exit location(s).
Humbug I Humbug II Port Terminal Pearl B. Larsen Bay Road	Humbug Southside Road Humbug Palm Drive Gallows Bay Mt. Welcome Road Tide Village/Altona East End Road Frederiksted Veterans Shore Drive	Install new guard rails around wet wells, and hand rails on wet well steps.
Old Barrack Yard	Gallows Bay Church Street	Install new guard rails around wet wells, hand rails on wet well steps, and flood prevention gates at building entrance/exit location(s).

The project meets the CATEX eligibility criteria found in 6.204(a)(l)(ii). This category includes "actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water, or capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Additionally, the available information you provided concerning the proposed action indicates that none of the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10), are present.

Based on our review, EPA approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

-changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion,
-new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist, or
-federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Furthermore, EPA strongly encourages project sponsors to incorporate green practices into all phases of a project, including planning, design, and construction. Such practices can promote sustainable infrastructure, support development of a "green" workforce, and reduce long-term operation and maintenance costs. In previous correspondence with you, we have enclosed a copy of a fact sheet for your information that identifies a variety of recommendations that should be given consideration in projects. EPA hopes to see green practices incorporated as a standard part of projects in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This CATEX will be available on the EPA website at http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Enck

Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

cc: May Adams Cornwall, P.E., Executive Director, WMA
Laurie Williams, Director of Engineering, WMA
James Grum, P.E., Chief Engineer, WMA
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